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BULLETIN

OF

THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM

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ANNOUNCEMENT

By the time this appears in print the leave of absence of the Director, Mr. Langdon Warner, will have extended over more than seven months. As our readers are aware, he went, in December of last year, to the Far East, under an arrangement between the Smithsonian Institution and this Museum, for the purpose of prosecuting archæological researches and acquiring objects of art for both institutions.

A few extracts from his letters will show that he has not failed in his quest and throw some interesting side-lights on the state of affairs in the land of our Eastern Allies.

He went from here direct to Tokyo, whence he wrote, on February 6th, to Mr. McIlhenny:

"The market in Japan for certain classes of objects has been ruined, from the point of view of the purchaser, by the wild rush for objects of art on the part of the new munitions millionaires and by the consequent speculation on the part of the dealers. While this state of things has quieted down now it has left the prices in some cases several hundred per cent higher than they were before the war or even during 1915.

"Luckily for us, the things most in demand by the Japanese are not what we most need. For instance, I saw, two days ago, a small incense box of late Ming Celadon which was worth in China perhaps ten yen, yet having been in Japan for two centuries and having been owned successively by three great tea masters, it brought no less than thirty-five hundred yen. Paintings, too, which, having a long history of ownership by distinguished amateurs, are valued quite apart from their beauty; especially fine things with no such associations or else recently imported from China, can sometimes be secured at prices not at all unreasonable.

"So far I have gotten hold of one Chinese stone head dating from the first T'ang Dynasty or from the Sui, perhaps the last quarter of the sixth century A. D. or the first of the seventh. It is perhaps the best example of that period that has come out of China and in perfect condition.

"Among the Chinese stone heads that I know there is an earlier one in New York that is remarkable for its attractive patine and delicate cutting, and

one of the same period (so-called Six Dynasties) in Cleveland, which is, or almost, equally important esthetically and considering it is one of the few in the manner of the early years of the period; only these two can compare with ours in interest. I am also trying to land a certain big stone figure of great importance.

"I have further found, but not bought, a small piece of lacquer of the Genroku period, perhaps of the first quarter of the eighteenth century, in the style of Korin. Of course, I do not know positively it is by that master, but have convinced myself that it is of his period.

"Among the University crowd are some of my old friends and with them I spend a good deal of my time. Even the best of them are so remote from the war and its issues that they are lukewarm. You take their lack of enthusiasm for Pro-Germanism, but, on the whole, that is unfair. German atrocities do not come home to them so effectively as German efficiency, and, back of it all, I suspect that the Japanese shipping interests have suffered from British supremacy as traders on the ocean and imagine that a German victory might leave room for Japanese ships. In this they are surely wrong and there is no doubt that they will find it out before things have gone too far.

"For the moment Japan is full to overflowing with Russians who are trying to get into America or who are leaving their country till times have quieted down. Many of them are poor and have become a public burden; the others flock to the hotels, where they are not a very desirable element.

"I am living in a huge barn of a place, the Station Hotel at Tokyo, and confess that I do not like my first experience of living in Japan in foreign style. I am on the lookout now for a small house to move into in order to save money and be freer, but rents are high and small houses rare in Tokyo; also I find that meat and milk and sugar are treble in price, in three years, and all cost more than they do even in London. Even the common foodstuffs of Japan have risen so much that the burden on the salaried class is almost greater than can be borne. The laborers, of course, make more than ever before in the history of the country.

"There is a chance of my making a small side trip to Formosa before long, but I fancy that the material to be gotten out of it will be more in the line of what the Smithsonian wants than the Pennsylvania Museum. The stuff is aboriginal art and craft; some of it is of great interest and considerable beauty.

"Please tell everyone you meet how much the American ambassador is appreciated over here; he makes a singularly happy impression of frankness and ability, and the Lord knows that just those particular virtues are most needed in our relationship with Japan. I have heard him make two or three good speeches and have met him socially several times. He is by far the best man they have sent, the best in my fairly long experience of Japan, and the old residents here say that he is the best that has ever come over."

In March Mr. Warner went to Manchuria in hopes of doing some archaeological work for the Smithsonian Institution and of using his influence to save the small but important and valuable collections housed in the museums of the cities along the Trans-Siberian Railway from damage at the hands of riotous mobs. Surprising as it may seem, these cities, which seem to us so

remote and to our imagination semi-barbarous, have museums, public libraries, opera houses and all the equipment of the most modern civilization. The museum at Irkutsk is unique in its own line, and there are several others of almost equal importance.

He found it impossible, however, to get beyond Manchuli, a station at the point where the borders of Manchuria, the Trans-Baikal province of Siberia, and Mongolia come together.

At this strategically important position, he found that the line had been cut a few versts beyond the station and a small force of loyal troops was attempting to stem the eastward advance of the Bolsheviki and protect Vladivostock with its valuable military stores. Under these conditions archæological work was pretty nearly, if not altogether, impossible, and he returned to Japan. Mr. Warner was then asked by the United States authorities to go to Harbin to help relieve the enormous pressure on the consular office there. The daily papers keep us informed of the fact that Harbin is at the moment one of the storm centers in the Far East and we must reconcile ourselves to a temporary, though, let us hope, brief, loss of our Director's services, trusting, as we may be sure he does, that he is helping to win the war. In the middle of April he left Tokyo, going first to Peking and thence to Manchuria.



POTTERY AND PORCELAIN FROM THE EDWIN A. BARBER COLLECTION PRESENTED BY MR. FRANK SAMUEL

Owing to the kind interest of Mr. Frank Samuel, a selection of nineteen pieces belonging to the private collection of the late Dr. Edwin A. Barber was obtained for the Museum at the sale of his collection on December 11 and 12, 1917. The series contains choice specimens from different French, English and Italian factories, as well as examples of porcelain from the earliest factory of purely American porcelain, established by William Ellis Tucker in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

From France is a fine tureen of stanniferous faience with floral decorations, from Niderviller, of the Beyerlé period 1754-1780, which is a particularly fine example both in form and detail. The soft green of the relief decorations of fruit that form the top of the lid and the rose and other bright shades of the clusters of the flowers are especially attractive.

The faience of Niderviller in Lorraine, or Niederwiller, as it is sometimes called, shows strong Strasburg influence. Baron de Beyerlé opened a factory at this point in 1704 and his wife, being a true artist, looked after the art side of the undertaking. They decorated both in flowers and landscapes, the latter of which were set as might be a paper on a background in imitation of grained wood.

Another specimen of French manufacture is a Tournay paste plate redecorated outside the factory and made up to pass for Sèvres under a forged mark—a curious piece. Tournay is usually included among French wares, as during